(c) how much of this abandoned are of land comprised forest land, revenue land and agriculture land; and

(d) the details of provision for returning these abandoned area of land to the farmers after levelling the same togetherwith the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) As informed by BALCO, the total land allotted to BALCO for mining of bauxite in the State of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh is 2779.346 hectares. After expiry of lease/exhaustion of the deposits, BALCO surrendered an area of 1514.06 hectares which was forest land.

(d) In view of the above, question of returning any land to the farmers does not aries.

VRS package for the employees of BGML

1510. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 3533 employees of Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML) would be offered a special VRS package;

(b) if so, the details of the package offered;

(c) whether any option has been extended to employees to get shifted to other departments which are in need of manpower; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) As decided by the Government, BGML introduced Special Terminal Benefit package (STBP) for one month in October, 2002. The STBP allowed the erstwhile employee an option to choose either heavy Industry package or Gujarat package of voluntary separation on the lines of the package offered in December, 2000. The employees opting for STBP were also offered hutments at reasonable price.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.